

control, for at birth males already have proportionately longer tails'.

The two live specimens had the iris reddish orange. The females all had 12-20 eggs in each ovary, the largest about 5 mm. in diameter. The males showed enlarged testes varying between 17×12 mm. and 24×14 mm., all after shrinkage in formalin. Yellow fat bodies were present near the gonads in all of both sexes. The species is diurnal and herbivorous and the stomachs held remains of vegetation, mostly grasses.

Smith (FAUNA, p. 245) indicates an average size of 305 mm. for this species and refers to their attaining a total length of 350 mm. He also refers to a 450 mm. individual from Karachi as unusually large. The male from Thar & Parkar which had enlarged testes measured 388 mm. and the two females 296 and 238 mm. In the present series, the males averaged 415 mm. (369-489 mm.) and the females 375 mm. (340-396 mm.).

All the specimens captured were measured and it is significant that no small ones were obtained. Is the Kutch population larger in size?

BOMBAY NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY,

91, WALKESHWAR ROAD,

BOMBAY 6,

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HUMAYUN ABDULALI

[The Society's bird migration camp on Kuar Bet on the borders of the Rann in March 1960 was partly under a large Acacia tree which held a nest of a Tawny Eagle, *Aquila rapax*, containing an almost fully fledged young one. The nest was littered with the remains of tails and backbones of the Spiny-tailed Lizard, *Uromastix hardwicki*, which appeared to be the staple food at least of the young. A pair brought in by P. W. Soman, Junior Research Assistant, were cast as exhibits for the Natural History Section of the Prince of Wales Museum, Bombay. The male with a total length of 333 mm. had his tail 80% of the head and the body and the female (292 mm.) 70%.—Eds.]

14. THE BULL FROG (*RANA TIGRINA*) AS A PREDATOR OF POULTRY

During our annual family gathering for Christmas in Pithapuram (East Godavary District, Andhra Pradesh) this year, we were not served with fowl as frequently as in previous years. On enquiry my mother explained that most of the chicks reared during the year were lost and it must be the work of kites or thieves.

My two daughters and I decided that the thief must be caught. Our prize Rhode Island Red hen, with her brood of 15 chicks hardly 10 days old, was going about briskly with the chicks running hither and thither. We hid near a small bush in our compound and waited for the thief. An hour passed by but there was no sign either of kite or thief. The chicks were evidently thirsty and so was their mother. They proceeded towards a small forsaken pool in the compound. While we watched from the bush, presto, a chick disappeared and then, equally suddenly, another. We ran towards the pool and the sight was really ghastly. Two bull frogs (*Rana tigrina*) had each a chick in its mouth firmly grasped with their forelegs. Within the twinkling of an eye the victims were swallowed. At last the thief had been caught.

RESEARCH DIVISION OF ENTOMOLOGY,
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BAPATLA,
May 2, 1960.

EDWIN DHARMARAJU

15. FOUR NEW BUTTERFLIES FROM ASSAM

(With five text-figures)

LYCAENIDAE

1. *Spalgis baiongus* sp. nov. This species is described from a male and a female taken by Norman in thick forest in the plains of Sibsagar District. The ♀ was taken on 4 July 1954 in the Nambar Reserve and the ♂ on 5 April 1956 near the old Mokukchang road. Mr. G. E. Tite of the Tring staff of the British Museum (Natural History) has recently found a further two specimens in the Museum collection, a ♂ collected by Tytler at Ghaspani in the Naga Hills and a ♂ collected by Ferrar on Great Nicobar. Unfortunately the identity of the latter specimen cannot be determined with certainty since it lacks an abdomen.

DESCRIPTION

♂ and ♀. Antennae and palpi resemble those of *Spalgis epeus* Westwood.

Upper side : Both wings uniform brown with no trace of white at the end of the cell.

Under side : Both wings have rows of slender curved brown strigae similar to but much more irregular than those of *epeus*.